

have tried mutual respect, but there is no mutual respect when one side systematically fails to live up to an agreement. We have tried mutual benefit, but there is no mutual benefit when IPR piracy in the People's Republic of China costs United States' companies in excess of \$2 billion in lost revenue per year.

Third, as I noted in my last statement, I have noticed a tendency on the part of some Chinese officials when faced with statements regarding the lack of Chinese adherence to the agreement to attempt to deflect the criticism by taking the offensive and claiming that the United States has not held up its side of the agreement. Unfortunately, Mr. President, when pressed for specific examples of that alleged non-compliance, my Chinese friends have grown somewhat vague and noncommittal.

Mr. President, as the two sides continue 11-hour talks on this impasse, I hope that the Chinese side will remember that it is the United States, and not them, that is the aggrieved party.

THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on May 16 in Boston and Fall River in Massachusetts, volunteers and supporters from throughout the Nation will gather to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Dollars for Scholars program. It is fitting that this celebration take place in Massachusetts. Our State is the home of the Nation's first Dollars for Scholars chapter, which was founded in Fall River by Dr. Irving Fradkin, a local optometrist. Thirty-five years ago this month, the Dollars for Scholars parent organization was formally incorporated in Boston. From its roots in Massachusetts, Dollars for Scholars has grown to 760 chapters in 40 States. Last year, chapters across the country raised a total of \$15.8 million and helped over 15,000 students achieve greater educational opportunity.

Massachusetts has some of the most successful Dollars for Scholars chapters in the country. Its 68 chapters last year alone awarded more than \$1.5 million in college scholarships to over 2,500 students. In Boston, Holyoke, Worcester, Middleboro, Gloucester, and other communities, local citizens are reaching out to young men and women with a powerful message about the importance of education. Since its founding in Fall River, Dollars for Scholars chapters in Massachusetts have had a significant impact in our State—distributing a total of \$17.5 million in scholarships to more than 37,000 students.

The 35th anniversary events being held in Boston and Fall River this week are part of the Year of the Scholar activities across the country. The Year of the Scholar salutes the 30,000 volunteers who have helped colleges and communities across the country

work cooperatively to confront the rising costs of higher education. It celebrates the success of student scholars who have been able to go college with the help of the Dollars for Scholars Program. Dollars for Scholars deserves great credit for its extraordinary work in helping students fulfill their dream of a college education.

Education is the key to the work force of the future and the Nation's role in the global economy. Access to quality education for all citizens is a national priority. All children deserve an opportunity to learn and fulfill their potential. We must continue to improve our schools and make college education more accessible and affordable, in order to build a stronger economy and maintain a strong democracy.

I commend the citizens of Massachusetts for their long-standing commitment to education for all, and I am honored to take this opportunity to congratulate the Dollars for Scholars volunteers for their impressive work on this auspicious anniversary.

Mr. GORTON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, what is the state of the business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

PREVENTING A VOTE ON REPEAL OF THE GAS TAX

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, in connection with the debate, which I suspect will soon be superseded by debate on a budget agreement, a few points are still very, very much in order.

No. 1, there is a concerted effort here on the floor of the Senate to prevent a vote on a reduction in the gas tax, a reduction triggered by the rapid runup in the price of a commodity of vital importance to every American. But I think often overlooked in this debate is the fact that this is not just any run-of-the-mill gas or motor vehicle fuel tax.

This tax, imposed about 3 years ago at the time of President Clinton's first budget, represented an unprecedented change in the use of motor vehicle fuel tax. Always previously here in the Congress—and for all practical purposes almost always in our States—motor vehicle fuel taxes were used for transportation purposes, generally for the construction and maintenance of highways, but more frequently in the recent past for mass transit systems, whether bus related or on fixed rails.

As such, motor vehicle fuel taxes were usually less objected to by the vast majority of people than was the case with many others taxes because they could see what they were getting for their money, because one paid in proportion to one's use of those very transportation facilities.

President Clinton, however, flouted that convention in 1993 and determined that this gas tax was to be used for var-

ious social purposes. As the junior Senator from Missouri so eloquently put it a couple of days ago, the net result was that people who must use their automobiles to get back and forth to work were paying a tax to pay welfare to people who were not working at all and, in some cases, had no intention of doing so.

So, Mr. President, the concentration on the removal of this tax is not only based on the proposition that the American people are too heavily taxed as it is but on the fact that this one is peculiarly unfair and peculiarly unprecedented. Nevertheless, the vote was taken a couple of hours ago on this floor. Once again there was an eloquent statement on the part of the President's party that they would not allow this repeal to come to a vote.

The second element of that filibuster is directed at the TEAM Act, an act absolutely essential to validate the new sense of cooperation which is gaining wider and wider acceptance in labor-management relations across the United States and, indeed, is necessary if we are to meet the competitive pressures of the present economic world. Close to 90 percent of American workers in the private sector are not unionized and have chosen not to be. Yet, they are prohibited from entering into voluntary relationships with their employers to discuss matters of common interest, of morale, of productivity, of the very future of their jobs by a recent ruling of the Supreme Court enforced by the National Labor Relations Board.

A TEAM Act to encourage that cooperation will be of great importance in enhancing American competitiveness and in making many American workplaces happier and more interesting places for the vast majority of Americans to spend their working hours.

Because of their distaste for each of these proposals, the President's party, ironically enough, they are filibustering an increase in the minimum wage, a proposition made out to be of urgent and vital importance, more important than anything else before this body. Their actions speak louder than their words in this connection. They are not willing to let the majority of this body make a judgment on a gas tax repeal and on the TEAM Act while at the same time increasing the minimum wage if those issues are joined together, though, of course, it was originally their idea to join the minimum wage to an immigration bill to which it had no relationship whatsoever.

Finally, of course, Mr. President, underlying all of this bill is a modest, House-passed piece of legislation to provide overdue and just relief to those wrongfully fired from the White House Travel Office 2 years ago and, in one case, prosecuted for actions determined not to have been remotely criminal by a jury.

So three significant matters are now being filibustered by the President's